

APPLICANTS: Farmer  
U.S.S.N.: 09/369,016

54. The method of claim 51, wherein said bacteria is in the form of a spore.

D 55. (Twice amended) A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising buccally administering to said mammal a composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium, a fructo-oligosaccharide, a mineral citrate and a supplementary enzyme, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a lactase, an amylase, a glucanase, and a catalase.

56. (Amended) A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising buccally administering to said mammal a composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium, a fructo-oligosaccharide, and a supplementary lactase.

Sum E1 4 D 57. (Amended) A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a suppository, said suppository consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium.

58. (Amended) A composition consisting essentially of a *Bacillus coagulans*, a fructo-oligosaccharide, a mineral gluconate and a supplementary lactase.

59. (Amended) A composition consisting essentially of a *Bacillus coagulans*, a fructo-oligosaccharide, a mineral citrate and a supplementary lactase

61. The method of claim 51, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

D 5 62. (Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein said composition is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

63. The method of claim 55, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

D 6 64. (Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said composition is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

65. The method of claim 57, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

Sum E2 D 66. (Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein said composition is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

67. (Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein said composition is a suspension, aerosol spray,

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capsule, tablet, wafer, powder, or semi-solid formulation.

D7  
cont 68. (Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said composition is a suspension, aerosol spray, capsule, tablet, wafer, powder, or semi-solid formulation.

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69. (New) A composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* and a supplementary lactase.

D8 70. (New) A composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* spore and a supplementary lactase.

71. (New) The composition of claim 69, wherein said composition comprises 200 IU of lactase.

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